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Attorney Docket No. YOR920000220US1

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Patent Application

Applicant(s): F. Hendriks et al.
Docket No.: YOR920000220US1
Serial No.: 09/642,531
Filing Date: August 18, 2000
Group: 2132
Examiner: Benjamin E. Lanier

I hereby certify that this paper is being deposited on this date with the U.S. Postal Service as first class mail addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

Signature: Leisa M. Hamlin Date: February 24, 2005

Title: Methods and Apparatus for Associating a User with
Content in a Collaborative Whiteboard System

APPEAL BRIEF

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313

Sir:

Applicants (hereinafter referred to as "Appellants") hereby appeal the final rejection of claims 1-23 of the above-referenced application.

REAL PARTY IN INTEREST

The present application is assigned to International Business Machines Corp., as evidenced by an assignment recorded October 18, 2000 in the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office at Reel 11248, Frame 0329. The assignee, International Business Machines Corp., is the real party in interest.

RELATED APPEALS AND INTERFERENCES

There are no known related appeals and interferences.

STATUS OF CLAIMS

Claims 1-23 are pending in the present application. Claims 3 and 13 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §101. Claims 1, 4-9, 11 and 14-23 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b). Claims 2, 10 and 12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a). Claims 1-23 are appealed.

STATUS OF AMENDMENTS

There have been no amendments filed subsequent to the final rejection.

SUMMARY OF CLAIMED SUBJECT MATTER

The present invention provides methods and apparatus for associating a user with content in a collaborative application computing system, such as a collaborative whiteboard system. Thus, the invention is applicable, for example, to situations including multiple users or groups of users at disparate locations who wish to (or must) work together using a collaborative whiteboard system. The collaborative system may be a distributed network of collaborative computers processing shared data. At each collaborative computer, one or more users contribute to the shared data. Thus, the invention answers the question: “who is writing?,” as well as: “who wrote what?,” in the collaborative system (Specification, p. 3, lines 2-10).

Accordingly, the present invention associates an identity of the contributed data with the user who contributed that data, and not just with the collaborative computer. This enables multiple users at one collaborative computer to contribute to the shared data such that each user’s contribution can be distinguished, acknowledged and/or indexed (Specification, p. 3, lines 11-14).

In one aspect of the invention, a method for use in a distributed collaborative computing system with two or more collaborative computing devices coupled via a communication network and respectively executing a collaborative application thereon, comprises the steps of: (i) associating one or more identifiers with data units respectively entered by one or more users at at least one of the two or more collaborative computing devices so that data entered by the one or more users is uniquely identifiable in the distributed collaborative computing system; and (ii) storing the data units and the one or more associated unique identifiers, the stored data units and associated unique identifier being accessible to the two or more collaborative computing devices in the distributed collaborative

computing system in accordance with the collaborative application (Specification, p. 3 line 15-26).

In another aspect of the invention, an apparatus for use in accordance with at least one computing device of a distributed collaborative computing system with two or more collaborative computing devices coupled via a communication network and respectively executing a collaborative application thereon comprises at least one processor operative to: (i) associate one or more identifiers with data units respectively entered by one or more users at the at least one collaborative computing device so that data entered by the one or more users is uniquely identifiable in the distributed collaborative computing system; and (ii) store the data units and the one or more associated unique identifiers, the stored data units and associated unique identifier being accessible to the collaborative computing devices in the distributed collaborative computing system in accordance with the collaborative application.

In yet another aspect of the invention, an apparatus for use in accordance with at least one computing device in a distributed collaborative computing system with two or more collaborative computing devices coupled via a communication network and respectively executing a collaborative application thereon comprises: one or more input devices used by one or more users to enter data units at the computing device; user identification means for associating one or more identifiers with the data units respectively entered by the one or more users at the computing device so that data entered by the one or more users is uniquely identifiable in the distributed collaborative computing system; and memory for storing the data units and the one or more associated unique identifiers, the stored data units and associated unique identifier being accessible to the collaborative computing devices in the distributed collaborative computing system in accordance with the collaborative application.

A block diagram illustrating a distributed collaborative whiteboard system according to an embodiment of the present invention is shown in FIG. 1. Block diagrams illustrating user identification means in whiteboard systems according to various embodiments of the invention are shown in FIGS. 3, 4 and 6.

Many advantages flow from the teachings of the present invention. For example, advantages may include: (i) identification of the user who contributed data to a collaboration; (ii) multiple users on one computer to uniquely contribute to the collaboration; (iii) multiple users on one computer to

simultaneously contribute to the collaboration; (iv) multiple users on one computer to use one input device to contribute to the collaboration, and maintain their user identity and user contribution; (v) multiple users on one computer to use multiple input devices to contribute to the collaboration, and maintain their user identity and user contribution; (vi) multiple users on one computer to use multiple input devices simultaneously to contribute to the collaboration, and maintain their user identity and user contribution; and (vii) multiple users on one computer to communicate with multiple users on another computer, and maintain their user identity and user contribution (Specification, p. 4, lines 12-24).

GROUND OF REJECTION TO BE REVIEWED ON APPEAL

(I) Claims 3 and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §101 as being inoperable.

(II) Claims 1, 4-9, 11 and 14-23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,577,120 to Penzias (hereinafter “Penzias”).

(III) Claims 2, 10 and 12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Penzias in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,993,068 to Piosenka et al. (hereinafter “Piosenka”).

ARGUMENT

Appellants incorporate by reference herein the disclosures of all previous responses filed in the present application, namely, responses dated June 25, 2004 and December 22, 2004.

(I) Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §101

Claims 3 and 13

With respect to the §101 rejection of claims 3 and 13, Appellants note that these claims describe a method and an apparatus “wherein the one or more identifiers are assigned to the one or more users before the data units are entered by the one or more users.” In formulating the §101 rejection of these claims, the Examiner argues on p. 3 of the final Office Action:

Claims 3, 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §101 because the disclosed invention is inoperative and therefore lacks utility. How can identifiers being (*sic*) assigned to a user before the user enters data or establishes an association with the computing device? The user

would be unknown to the device at this point and assigning and (*sic*) identifier to this user would not be possible.

Appellants respectfully disagree. One skilled in the art would recognize that a method or apparatus could operate in accordance with claims 3 and 13 if, for example, a party other than the one or more users utilizing the collaborative computing system were to assign the identifiers. Such a third party could, for example, be a system administrator for the collaborative computing system. In accordance with the claims, by way of one example, the system administrator could assign the identifiers to the one or more users before data units are entered by the one or more users.

In response to this scenario, the Examiner, in the Advisory Action, argues that claims 3 and 13 remain inoperable because “the system administrator would have no prior knowledge of the users before the users enter the data units” and because “[t]here is no indication in the claim language to suggest that these users have been previously registered and would therefore be able to have identifiers associated with them” (Advisory Action, p. 2). Appellants note that the independent claims to which claims 3 and 13 depend are recited with the transitional phrase “comprising.” The transitional phrase “comprising” in a claim makes the claim open-ended and does not exclude additional unrecited elements or method steps from the scope of that claim. Therefore, Appellants respectfully submit that the Examiner’s argument that claims 3 and 13 are in some way deficient because of allegedly missing elements or method steps is untenable.

Based on the scenario recited herein, as well as several others, claims 3 and 13 are clearly operable. Accordingly, withdrawal of the §101 rejection of claims 3 and 13 is respectfully requested.

(II) Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) over Penzias

Claims 1, 7, 11, 17 and 20

With respect to the §102(b) rejection, Appellants initially note that the Manual of Patent Examining Procedure (MPEP), Eighth Edition, August 2001, §2131, specifies that a given claim is anticipated “only if each and every element as set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference,” citing Verdegaal Bros. v. Union Oil Co. of California, 814 F.2d 628, 631, 2 USPQ2d 1051, 1053 (Fed. Cir. 1987). Moreover, MPEP §2131 indicates that the cited reference must show the “identical invention . . . in as complete detail as is

contained in the . . . claim,” citing Richardson v. Suzuki Motor Co., 868 F.2d 1226, 1236, 9 USPQ2d 1913, 1920 (Fed. Cir. 1989).

Independent claims 1, 11 and 20 describe methods and apparatus “for use in a distributed collaborative computing system with two or more collaborative computing devices coupled via a communication network and respectively executing a collaborative application thereon.” The Examiner, in formulating the §102(b) rejection for the independent claims, argues that each and every one of the limitations of these claims is anticipated by Penzias. More specifically, the Examiner states:

In this case, Penzias discloses a method for retail transaction identification wherein a purchaser is required to provide identification along with biometric information, at a point of sale terminal, in the form of either height, weight, eye/hair color, fingerprint, iris image, or voice print in order to purchase a certain product. At the time of purchase, the purchaser’s identification information, biometric information, and information about the transaction itself (data unit) is stored, which meets the limitation of associating one or more identifiers with data units respectively entered by one or more users at at least one of the two or more collaborative computing devices so that data entered by one or more is uniquely identifiable in the distributed collaborative computing system. The stored information is recoverable upon authorization by a central maintenance agency (Col. 2, line 37 - Col. 3, line 52), which meets the limitation of storing the data units and the one or more associated unique identifiers, the stored data units and associate (*sic*) unique identifier being accessible to the two or more collaborative computing devices in the distributed collaborative computing system in accordance with the collaborative application.
(Final Office Action, pp. 2-3).

Appellants respectfully disagree. One difference between the claims and the reference is that the claims relate to a “distributed collaborative computing system” such as “a collaborative whiteboard system” (Specification, p. 3, lines 2-4), while the reference relates to a system for identifying individuals who have engaged in a retail transaction. One of ordinary skill in the art will recognize that these systems perform different functions and are, therefore, not identical. To collaborate means, by way of example, to work together with others, especially in an intellectual endeavor (*Merriam-Webster Dictionary*, 1996). Correspondingly, a “distributed collaborative computing system” must necessarily function to allow users at different locations to work together for some joint purpose.

For instance, in a collaborative whiteboard system in accordance with this invention, a user at a first location is able to view information written by a user at a second location. This way, the remote users may interact as if they are in the same location (Specification, p. 2, lines 7-10).

The computing system of Penzias, on the other hand, functions only to identify a user and clearly lacks any purpose in facilitating collaboration between users. In fact, according to the reference, the users of the reference's "retail transaction identification" system consist of individuals who have "engaged in a commercial, retail or other transaction" (Penzias, col. 1, lines 9-12) and government agencies trying to retroactively find these individuals, primarily as part of criminal investigations (Penzias, col. 1, lines 11-12; col. 3, line 63 through col. 4, line 10). Based on the identities of these users, Appellants respectfully submit that it would be unreasonable to assert that the individuals (potentially criminals and terrorists) using the reference's "retail transaction identification" system are in some way working together with government agencies who are potentially trying to search them out. As a result, the reference's system does not teach a "distributed collaborative computing system."

In the final Office Action, the Examiner further argues with respect to the § 102(b) rejection, that "the use of smart cards and point of sale terminals to authenticate users (Col. 5, line 1 - Col. 6, line 57), . . . would meet the limitation of a collaborative computing system because they 'work together' to authenticate the users" (final Office Action, p. 2). Moreover, in the Advisory Action, the Examiner states that "a user at a point of sale terminal and a user at the authentication site work together to complete a retail transaction, which would be considered to be a joint purpose" (Advisory Action, p. 2). Appellants, again, respectfully disagree. As stated above, a collaborative computing system is defined by the present invention to be one which allows individuals at different locations to work together for some joint purpose. These users could, for example, comprise engineers at disparate locations conducting a discourse on a technical issue (Specification, p. 6, lines 13-16). Accordingly, the collaborative computer system is not, as the Examiner seems to argue, merely a system wherein two or more electronic devices share digital data.

Based at least on these deficiencies, Appellants submit that Penzias fails to describe each and every element of independent claim 1, 11 and 20 and, therefore, does not anticipate these claims

under §102(b). Appellants further submit that dependent claims 7 and 17 are allowable for at least the reasons stated above with respect to their respective independent claims.

Claims 4-6, 8, 9, 14-16, 18, 19 and 23

With respect to the §102(b) rejection of dependent claims 4-6, 8, 9, 14-16, 18, 19 and 23, Appellants initially note that the Examiner, in formulating the §102(b) rejection of these claims, provides no specific arguments as to why these claims are anticipated by Penzias beyond that provided for their respective independent claims. In other words, the Examiner does not cite the specific portions of Penzias that allegedly anticipate the particular limitations of these dependent claims. Appellants respectfully submit that this does not meet the specificity requirements for a rejection under the Federal Rules and the MPEP. 37 C.F.R. §1.104(c)(2) requires:

In rejecting claims for want of novelty or for obviousness, the examiner must cite the best references at his or her command. When a reference is complex or shows or describes inventions other than that claimed by the applicant, the particular part relied on must be designated as nearly as practicable. The pertinence of each reference, if not apparent, must be clearly explained and each rejected claim specified. (*emphasis added*)

Moreover, MPEP §706 requires that “[w]hen a reference is complex or shows or describes inventions other than that claimed by the applicant, the particular part relied on must be designated as nearly as practicable.” The rejection of dependent claims 4-6, 8, 9, 14-16, 18, 19 and 23 is, therefore, deficient with respect to these requirements.

Despite these deficiencies, Appellants submit that dependent claims 4-6, 8, 9, 14-16, 18, 19 and 23 are allowable for at least the reasons stated above with respect to their respective independent claims.

Claim 21

Appellants assert that claim 21 is allowable for at least the reasons stated above with respect to independent claim 20. Moreover, Appellants also assert that this claim clearly contains separately patentable subject matter. Claim 21 includes limitations wherein the apparatus of independent claim 20 includes “a user settable switch.” Such a switch, for example, may be a dual in-line (DIP) switch

on a light pen that allows the pen to be assigned its own unique identification (Specification, p. 11, line 21 through p. 12, line 8). In the Advisory Action, the Examiner argues:

Applicants (*sic*) argument that the Penzias references does not include a user settable switch associated with an input device for permitting the user to enter a unique identification code is not persuasive because Penzias discloses that the user enters identification information in the form of either height, weight, eye/hair color, fingerprint, iris image, or voice print in order to purchase a certain product. There is no devices that measures all of theses possibilities therefore (*sic*) entry of a specific type of identification information is user selectable.

Although the Examiner apparently argues that a device in Penzias may be “user selectable,” Appellants respectfully submit that the above-quoted argument fails to point out where Penzias describes an element composed of a switch. In fact, Penzias does not describe any kind of switch or even contain the word “switch.” Therefore, Penzias does not describe each and every limitation of claim 21 and does not anticipate this claim under §102(b).

Claim 22

Appellants assert that claims 22 is allowable for at least the reasons stated above with respect to independent claim 20. Moreover, Appellants also assert that this claim clearly contains separately patentable subject matter. Claim 22 includes limitations wherein the apparatus of independent claim 20 includes “a personal area network system associated with an input device for permitting automatic entry of a unique identifiable code.” In the Advisory Action, the Examiner argues:

Applicants (*sic*) argument that the Penzias references does not disclose the user identification means includes a personal area network system associated with an input device for permitting automatic entry of a unique identifiable code is not persuasive because Penzias discloses that the scanned biometric information and other information is transmitted from the point of sale to a central authority for authorization (Col. 4, lines 1-14).

Appellants respectfully disagree. A personal area network is commonly defined as a network allowing the interconnection of information technology devices within the range of an individual person, typically within a range of 10 meters. The Examiner argues that such a network is

anticipated by the network in Penzias that allows information to be transmitted from the point of sale to a central authority. Nevertheless, one skilled in the art will immediately recognize that Penzias's network is not restricted by "the range of an individual person" like the network in claim 22. Penzias, as a result, does not describe each and every element of claim 22.

(III) Rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Penzias in view of Piosenka

Claims 2, 10 and 12

With respect to the §103(a) rejection of dependent claims 2, 10 and 12 with reference to Penzias in view of Piosenka, Appellants respectfully submit that the Piosenka reference fails to supplement the above-described fundamental deficiencies of Penzias as applied to independent claims 1 and 11. These dependent claims would, as a result, not have been obvious at the time that the invention was made.

Furthermore, Appellants respectfully submit that the Examiner's stated motivation for combining the Penzias and Piosenka references is inadequate under the MPEP and recent case law from the Federal Circuit. In formulating the §103(a) rejection to claims 2, 10 and 12, the Examiner states:

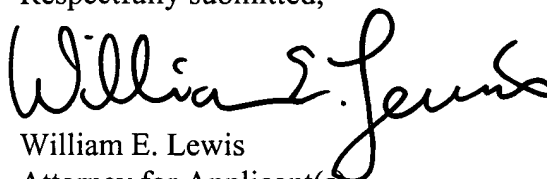
Penzias does not disclose that the point of sale terminals accepts signature biometric information. Piosenka discloses a personal identification system wherein the biometric terminal accepts signatures via a pressure sensitive tablet (Col. 5, lines 20-27, Fig. 1) (whiteboard system). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to authenticate the purchasers of Penzias using dynamic signature via pressure sensitive tablets in order to provide universally accepted personal identification information as taught by Piosenka (Col. 2, lines 43-48).
(Final Final Office Action, pp. 2-3).

The Federal Circuit has stated that when patentability turns on the questions of obviousness, the obviousness determination "must be based on objective evidence of record" and that "this precedent has been reinforced in myriad decisions, and cannot be dispensed with." In re Sang-Su Lee, 277 F.3d 1338, 1343 (Fed. Cir. 2002). Moreover, the Federal Circuit has stated that "conclusory statements" by an examiner fail to adequately address the factual questions of motivation, which is material to patentability and cannot be resolved "on subjective belief and unknown authority." Id. at 1343-1344.

Appellants respectfully submit that this §103(a) rejection contains no such showing of objective evidence of record that would motivate one skilled in the art to combine the proposed references as suggested by the Examiner. Instead the above quoted language is precisely the type of subjective, conclusory statements that the Federal Circuit has indicated provides insufficient support for an obviousness rejection.

For at least the reasons given above, Appellants respectfully request withdrawal of the §101, §102(b) and §103(a) rejections of claims 1-23.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "William E. Lewis". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "William" and last name "Lewis" clearly distinguishable.

William E. Lewis
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Date: February 24, 2005

CLAIMS APPENDIX

1. A method for use in a distributed collaborative computing system with two or more collaborative computing devices coupled via a communication network and respectively executing a collaborative application thereon, the method comprising the steps of:

associating one or more identifiers with data units respectively entered by one or more users at at least one of the two or more collaborative computing devices so that data entered by the one or more users is uniquely identifiable in the distributed collaborative computing system; and

storing the data units and the one or more associated unique identifiers, the stored data units and associated unique identifier being accessible to the two or more collaborative computing devices in the distributed collaborative computing system in accordance with the collaborative application.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein the two or more collaborative computing devices are whiteboard systems.

3. The method of claim 1, wherein the one or more identifiers are assigned to the one or more users before the data units are entered by the one or more users.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein the associating step is performed substantially contemporaneous with the entry of the data units by the one or more users.

5. The method of claim 1, wherein the associating step is performed after the data units are entered by the one or more users.

6. The method of claim 1, wherein the associating step further comprises determining an identifier to be associated with the data units entered by a user via an input device used by the user to enter the data units.

7. The method of claim 1, wherein the associating step further comprises determining an identifier to be associated with the data units entered by a user via a personal code automatically sensed through an input device used by the user to enter the data units.

8. The method of claim 1, wherein the associating step further comprises determining an identifier to be associated with the data units entered by a user via a biometric feature associated with the user entering the data units.

9. The method of claim 8, wherein the biometric feature comprises at least one of a fingerprint, a handwriting pattern, a speech pattern, and a retinal pattern extracted from the user.

10. The method of claim 9, wherein the biometric data is converted to compressed form and transmitted to a pen sensing unit.

11. Apparatus for use in accordance with at least one computing device of a distributed collaborative computing system with two or more collaborative computing devices coupled via a communication network and respectively executing a collaborative application thereon, the apparatus comprising:

at least one processor operative to: (i) associate one or more identifiers with data units respectively entered by one or more users at the at least one collaborative computing device so that data entered by the one or more users is uniquely identifiable in the distributed collaborative computing system; and (ii) store the data units and the one or more associated unique identifiers, the stored data units and associated unique identifier being accessible to the collaborative computing devices in the distributed collaborative computing system in accordance with the collaborative application.

12. The apparatus of claim 11, wherein the two or more collaborative computing devices are whiteboard systems.

13. The apparatus of claim 11, wherein the one or more identifiers are assigned to the one or more users before the data units are entered by the one or more users.

14. The apparatus of claim 11, wherein the associating operation is performed substantially contemporaneous with the entry of the data units by the one or more users.

15. The apparatus of claim 11, wherein the associating operation is performed after the data units are entered by the one or more users.

16. The apparatus of claim 11, wherein the associating operation further comprises determining an identifier to be associated with the data units entered by a user via an input device used by the user to enter the data units.

17. The apparatus of claim 11, wherein the associating operation further comprises determining an identifier to be associated with the data units entered by a user via a personal code automatically sensed through an input device used by the user to enter the data units.

18. The apparatus of claim 11, wherein the associating operation further comprises determining an identifier to be associated with the data units entered by a user via a biometric feature associated with the user entering the data units.

19. The apparatus of claim 18, wherein the biometric feature comprises at least one of a fingerprint, a handwriting pattern, a speech pattern, and a retinal pattern extracted from the user.

20. Apparatus for use in accordance with at least one computing device in a distributed collaborative computing system with two or more collaborative computing devices coupled via a communication network and respectively executing a collaborative application thereon, the apparatus comprising:

one or more input devices used by one or more users to enter data units at the computing device;

user identification means for associating one or more identifiers with the data units respectively entered by the one or more users at the computing device so that data entered by the one or more users is uniquely identifiable in the distributed collaborative computing system; and

memory for storing the data units and the one or more associated unique identifiers, the stored data units and associated unique identifier being accessible to the collaborative computing devices in the distributed collaborative computing system in accordance with the collaborative application.

21. The apparatus of claim 20, wherein the user identification means includes a user settable switch associated with an input device for permitting the user to enter a unique identifiable code.

22. The apparatus of claim 20, wherein the user identification means includes a personal area network system associated with an input device for permitting automatic entry of a unique identifiable code.

23. The apparatus of claim 20, wherein the user identification means includes a biometric recognition system for permitting automatic identification of a user based on at least one biometric feature associated with the user.

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Patent Application

Applicant(s): F. Hendriks et al.
Docket No.: YOR920000220US1
Serial No.: 09/642,531
Filing Date: August 18, 2000
Group: 2132
Examiner: Benjamin E. Lanier

I hereby certify that this paper is being deposited on this date with the U.S. Postal Service as first class mail addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

Signature: Leusa M. Hamlin Date: February 24, 2005

Title: Methods and Apparatus for Associating a User with
Content in a Collaborative Whiteboard System

TRANSMITTAL OF APPEAL BRIEF

Mail Stop Appeal Brief - Patents
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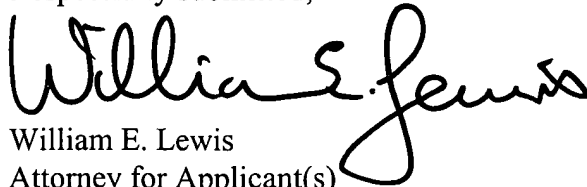
Sir:

Submitted herewith are the following documents relating to the above-identified patent application:

- (1) Appeal Brief; and
- (2) Copy of Notice of Appeal, filed on December 22, 2004, with copy of stamped return postcard indicating receipt of Notice by PTO on December 27, 2004.

Please charge **International Business Machines Corporation Deposit Account No. 50-0510** the amount of \$500 to cover this submission under 37 CFR §1.17(c). In the event of non-payment or improper payment of a required fee, the Commissioner is authorized to charge or to credit **Deposit Account No. 50-0510** as required to correct the error. A duplicate copy of this letter is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: February 24, 2005



PTO/SB/31 (09-04)
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**NOTICE OF APPEAL FROM THE EXAMINER TO
THE BOARD OF PATENT APPEALS AND INTERFERENCES**

Docket Number (Optional)

YOR20000220US1

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to "Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450" [37 CFR 1.8(a)] on December 22, 2004

Signature

Lisa L. Vulpis

Typed or printed name Lisa L. Vulpis

In re Application of
F. Hendriks et al.

Application Number
09/642,531

Filed
August 18, 2000

For **Methods and Apparatus for Associating a User with Content in a Collaborative Whiteboard System**

Art Unit

2132

Examiner

Benjamin E. Lanier

Applicant hereby **appeals** to the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences from the last decision of the examiner.

The fee for this Notice of Appeal is (37 CFR 41.20(b)(1))

\$ 500.00

- ☐ Applicant claims small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27. Therefore, the fee shown above is reduced by half, and the resulting fee is: \$ _____
- ☐ A check in the amount of the fee is enclosed.
- ☐ Payment by credit card. Form PTO-2038 is attached.
- ☐ The Director has already been authorized to charge fees in this application to a Deposit Account. I have enclosed a duplicate copy of this sheet.
- ☒ The Director is hereby authorized to charge any fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-0510. I have enclosed a duplicate copy of this sheet.
- ☐ A petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136(a) (PTO/SB/22) is enclosed.

WARNING: Information on this form may become public. Credit card information should not be included on this form. Provide credit card information and authorization on PTO-2038.

I am the

- ☐ applicant/inventor.
- ☐ assignee of record of the entire interest.
See 37 CFR 3.71. Statement under 37 CFR 3.73(b) is enclosed.
(Form PTO/SB/96)
- ☒ attorney or agent of record.
Registration number 39,274
- ☐ attorney or agent acting under 37 CFR 1.34.
Registration number if acting under 37 CFR 1.34. _____

William E. Lewis
Signature

William E. Lewis
Typed or printed name

516-759-2946
Telephone number

December 22, 2004
Date

NOTE: Signatures of all the inventors or assignees of record of the entire interest or their representative(s) are required. Submit multiple forms if more than one signature is required, see below*.

☐ *Total of _____ forms are submitted.

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 41.31. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.11, 1.14 and 41.6. This collection is estimated to take 12 minutes to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

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Receipt in the USPTO is hereby acknowledged of:

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